



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/363,728	07/29/1999	SARATH KRISHNASWAMY	6401.US.01	8480

7590

09/12/2002

DAVID L WEINSTEIN COUNSEL  
ABBOTT LABORATORIES  
DEPT 377 AP6D/2  
100 ABBOTT PARK ROAD  
ABBOTT PARK, IL 600646050

EXAMINER

LE, UYEN CHAU N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/363,728

Applicant(s)

KRISHNASWAMY ET AL.

Examiner

Uyen-Chau N. Le

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Prelim. Amdt/Amendment*

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed 22 July 2002.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
4. Claim 1 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Böcker et al (US 5,507,288) in view of Cheung et al (US 5,074,977).

Re claim 1, Böcker et al shows and discloses hand-held analytic test instrument comprising a housing, a barcode reader 28, a port 17, a display 21, a user interface 20 (e.g., on/off button) capable of activating the barcode reader. The barcode reader 28 is disposed in the

Art Unit: 2876

housing for scanning a barcode associated with a test strip 13. The port 17 is disposed in the housing for receiving the test strip 13. The instrument also comprising an electronic circuit that in electrical communication with the port 17 for processing an analytic signal received from the test strip 13 and generating analytic data there-from. The display 21 is in electrical communication with the circuit for displaying certain analytical data. The instrument further comprises a connector in electrical communication with the circuitry and electrically connectable to a host computer via a data communications network, wherein the circuitry automatically uploads the analytical data to the host computer upon connection thereto. (See Figs. 1&2; col. 5, line 35 - col. 6, line 60; and col. 8, lines 25-28).

Böcker et al fails to teach or fairly suggest a numeric keypad for selecting test or menu modes, editing entries, terminating entries.

Cheung et al teaches the above limitation with keypad 72 and display 24 of the measurement 10 allow the operator inputs and information outputs to be effected (fig. 2; col. 10, lines 39-48).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the conventional keypad as taught by Cheung et al into the teachings of Böcker et al in order to provide the user with a more flexibility in selecting which test to perform and in inputting the necessary data. Furthermore, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Böcker et al, well within the ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient.

5. Claim 3 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis (US 5,052,943) in view of Koenck et al (US 5,324,925) and Davis et al (US 5,828,966).

Re claims 3 and 7, Davis shows and discloses a docking station 2 comprising a connector electrically 32 connectable to the instrument, a first data port in electrical communication being connectable to a computer for transferring data, and a second data port in electrical communication being connectable to a peripheral device for recharging the batteries (fig. 1; col. 5, lines 5-68; and col. 10, lines 47-53). Furthermore, Davis inherently teaches a control mechanism for controlling the switch, which is in electrical communication with the connector, to selectively pass the analytical data to the computer or to the peripheral device (col. 5, lines 5-10; and col. 11, lines 24-30).

Davis fails to teach or fairly suggest that the docking station being configured to pass data between the analyte test instrument and the first data port when the docking station is in a default condition.

Koenck et al teaches the above limitation in figs. 7-8 and col. 3, lines 28-37.

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Koenck et al into the teachings of Böcker et al in order to provide Böcker et al with the latest technology, wherein data can be transmitted remote host terminal via wireless communication. Furthermore, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Böcker et al, well within ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient.

Davis as modified by Koenck et al fails to teach or fairly suggest a circuitry to prevent overcharging.

Davis et al teaches the above limitation with a special feature to prevent overcharging (abs., lines 12-15 and col. 2, lines 6-10).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Davis et al into the teachings of Davis/Koenck et al in order to provide Davis/Koenck et al with a capability of preventing the system from being damaged by overcharged it. Furthermore, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Davis/Koenck et al, well within the ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient.

6. Claim 4 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown (US 5,307,263) in view of Cheung et al. The teachings of Cheung et al have been discussed above.

Re claim 4, Brown teaches the method of managing data for a plurality of test instrument connected to a data communication network comprising step of detecting via a host computer the connection of each instrument to the data communication network; uploading data receiving from each instrument to the host computer; processing the uploaded data on the host computer for operator review; and downloading configuration data from the host computer to each test instrument (figs. 1&2; col. 8, line 14 through col. 15, line 44).

Brown fails to teach or fairly suggest that each instrument including a test strip port, which accepts test strip for determining the level of analyte in a sample taken from a patient.

Cheung et al teaches the above limitation with a measurement 10 having a slot for accepting test strip 16 (fig. 2; col. 10, lines 24+).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Cheung et al into the teachings of Brown in order to provide Brown with a high-tech system, wherein the reading results (i.e., level of analyte) of each analyte test can be directly transmitted to the host computer and the instruction for setting up and controlling of each analyte test can be received directly from the host

Art Unit: 2876

computer. Furthermore, such modification would have provided Brown with a more compact system, wherein the data communication network system and the analyte test apparatus are in the same unit/instrument. Accordingly, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Brown to provide Brown with a more user-friendly system, wherein the user can have the analyte test result readily, well within ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient.

7. Claims 2 and 5-6 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Böcker et al in view of Cargin, Jr. et al (US 5,602,456 - cited by the applicant). The teachings of Böcker et al have been discussed above.

Re claims 2 and 5-6, Böcker et al shows and discloses hand-held analytic test instrument comprising a housing, a port 17, a display 21, a battery compartment; a barcode reader 28 disposed in the housing; and a user interface 20 for activating the barcode reader 28. The port 17 is disposed in the housing for receiving the test strip 13. The instrument also comprising an electronic circuit that in electrical communication with the port 17 for processing an analytic signal received from the test strip 13 and generating analytic data there-from. The display 21 is in electrical communication with the circuit for displaying certain analytical data. The instrument further comprises a connector in electrical communication with the circuitry and electrically connectable to a power source. The battery compartment is formed in the housing and inherently comprising a pair of electrical contacts for providing power from a battery to the electronic circuitry and a rechargeable battery disposed in a battery holder. (See Figs. 1&2; and col. 5, line 35 - col. 7, line 8).

Böcker et al fails to disclose or fairly suggest that the battery compartment also comprising a pair of recharge contacts; a bus bar and a user interface capable of allowing an

Art Unit: 2876

operator to enter data, wherein the bus bar is disposed on the battery holder and in electrical communication with the pair of recharge contacts for recharging the batter when the instrument is connected to the power source; and a numeric keypad for selecting test or menu modes, editing entries, terminating entries.

Cargin, Jr. et al teaches that the battery compartment comprising those contacts 34, 35; a bus bar 32 for recharging the battery directly without removing the battery out of the compartment 29, and for preventing the inadvertent and possibly hazardous application of recharging electrical power to non-chargeable batteries (col. 12, lines 42-46); and a user interface, which is keypad 14 having a plurality of keys 56 (fig. 1; col. 10, lines 1-16).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Cargin Jr. et al into the teachings of Böcker et al due to the fast, easy, and convenience way of recharging the battery directly without removing the battery out of the compartment. Furthermore, such modification would have provided Böcker et al with a more user-friendly system, wherein the user can enter the required data manually via the keypad. Accordingly, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Böcker et al, well within ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient.

### ***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments filed 22 July 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

9. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching,



Art Unit: 2876

suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the primary reference to Böcker et al discloses a hand-held analytic test instrument comprising a housing, a barcode reader 28, a port 17, a display 21, a user interface 20 (e.g., on/off button) capable of activating the barcode reader, wherein the barcode reader 28 is disposed in the housing for scanning a barcode associated with a test strip 13. However, Böcker et al is silent with respect to having a numeric keypad. The secondary reference to Cheung et al teaches the above limitation. Accordingly, the claimed limitation, given its broadest reasonable interpretation, Böcker et al in view of Cheung et al meets the claimed invention (see the above discussion and the Office Action, paper No. 14). Furthermore, the reference to Zook et al discloses a portable handheld terminal including an optical barcode reader, a numeric keypad, and an electromagnetic transceiver means for interactive wireless communication with a base communication station (figs. 1, 3 & 10; col. 7, lines 9+).

10. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the primary reference to Davis discloses a docking station 2 comprising a connector electrically 32 connectable to the instrument, a first data port in electrical communication being connectable to a computer for transferring data, and a second data port in

Art Unit: 2876

electrical communication being connectable to a peripheral device for recharging the batteries (fig. 1; col. 5, lines 5-68; and col. 10, lines 47-53). However, Davis is silent with respect to transferring data between the instrument and the first data port when the docking station is in a default condition. The secondary reference to Koenck et al teaches the above limitation (col. 3, lines 27+). Nevertheless, Davis as modified by Koenck et al is silent with respect to having a circuit to prevent overcharging. The third reference to Davis et al teaches the above limitation (abs., lines 12-15 and col. 2, lines 6-10). Accordingly, the claimed limitation, given its broadest reasonable interpretation, Davis in view of Koenck et al and Davis et al meets the claimed invention (see the above discussion and the Office Action, paper No. 14). Furthermore, Zook et al discloses a base station for transmitting data between the handheld terminal and the base station, including a circuitry for preventing battery from overcharged (col. 7, lines 20+).

11. In response to the Applicant's argument with regard to claim 4, "the examiner's reasons for the rejection related to Severt et al and not to Brown..." (p.5, last paragraph), the examiner respectfully apologized for the typo. However, Brown was clearly set forth as the basis of the rejection. Claim 4 remains rejected as set forth in the above rejection (see paragraph 6).

12. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the primary reference to Böcker et al discloses a hand-held analytic test instrument comprising a housing, a barcode reader 28, a port 17, a display 21, a user interface 20

Art Unit: 2876

(e.g., on/off button) capable of activating the barcode reader, wherein the barcode reader 28 is disposed in the housing for scanning a barcode associated with a test strip 13. However, Böcker et al is silent with respect to having a user interface allowing an operator to enter data. The secondary reference to Cargin Jr. et al teaches the above limitation. Accordingly, the claimed limitation, given its broadest reasonable interpretation, Böcker et al in view of Cargin Jr. et al meets the claimed invention (see the above discussion and the Office Action, paper No. 14). Furthermore, the reference to Zook et al discloses a portable handheld terminal including an optical barcode reader, a user interface allowing an operator to enter data, a circuitry for battery recharging and prevent overcharging, and an electromagnetic transceiver means for interactive wireless communication with a base communication station (figs. 1, 3 & 10; col. 7, line 9 through col. 10, line 38).

For the reasons stated above, the Examiner believes that a proper prima-facie case of obviousness has been established. Therefore, the Examiner has made this Office Action final.

### ***Conclusion***

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The patents to Zook et al (US 4,850,009) and Gombrich et al (US 4,857,716) are cited as of interest and illustrate a similar structure to an analytic test instrument system including data management system.

14. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

Art Unit: 2876

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

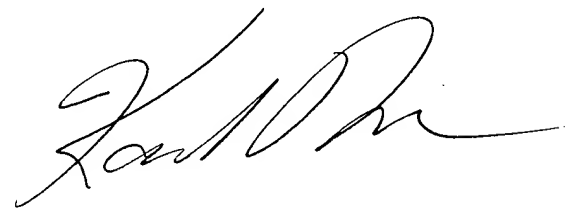
15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen-Chau N. Le whose telephone number is 703-306-5588. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T and TR-F 8:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MICHAEL G LEE can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

*Uyen Chau N. Le*

September 9, 2002



KARL D. FRECH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER